

At page 17, line 24, please delete "70 to 95" and insert -30 to 70--;

~~line 28, please delete "liquid carrier" and insert -of the overall decorative enhancement composition-~~

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3-4, 6, 9-14, 18-19, and 21-38 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) A method for permanent decorative enhancement of a
2 polyethylene surface of a ~~prefomed~~ **molded polyethylene** article which comprises:
3 (a) incorporating ~~[applying]~~ a decorative enhancement composition to
4 said **polyethylene** surface wherein said decorative enhancement
5 composition consists essentially of:
6 (1) a ~~[20 to 90 weight percent]~~ liquid carrier in an amount
7 sufficient to provide the decorative enhancement
8 composition with a consistency and viscosity necessary
9 for application by liquid methods of application; and
10 (2) a first ~~[10 to 80 weight percent]~~ mixture consisting essentially
11 of:
12 (A) a ~~[9 to 50 weight percent]~~ colorant in an amount
13 sufficient to impart a desired surface color; and
14 (B) ~~[50 to 91 weight percent of]~~ a second mixture consisting
15 essentially of:
16 (i) [30 to 70 weight percent of] a binder ~~[solid]~~ in an amount

sufficient to provide adhesion of the decorative enhancement composition to said polyethylene surface [selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon resins, petroleum, synthetic and emulsifiable waxes, rosins, rosin esters, terpene based resins, and chlorinated polyolefin resins]; and

(ii) a [70 to 30 weight percent] particulate thermoplastic powder in an amount sufficient to fuse into and form a permanent bond with the molded polyethylene article [selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and ethylene vinyl acetate co-polymers wherein said powder has a density from 0.88 to 0.97 and a particle size no greater than 140 microns diameter]; and

(b) heating said [deposited] decorative enhancement composition and said [interfacing surface] molded polyethylene article to produce a molded polyethylene article having [to an elevated temperature and time sufficient to fuse said decorative enhancement composition to said surface to form a permanent] a permanently colored decoratively enhanced surface [of the preformed article] characterized by said colorant on and in said polyethylene surface of said molded polyethylene article

Subj conc'd

3/1
2/2
3/3
2. (Amended) The method of Claim [4] 39 wherein said liquid carrier comprises 60 to 90 weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition for use in applying said decorative enhancement composition by spray methods.

a4/1
5. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said colorant is an organic
2 pigment from the [groups] group consisting of phthalocyanines, carbazole dioxanines,
3 monoazo-based, diazo based, and quinacridones.
a5/1
15. (Amended) The method of
4 Claim 1 further including application of a clear overcoat composition to [the] an exposed
5 surface of said permanent decoratively enhanced surface.

a5/2
17. (Amended) The method of Claim 16 further including the fusing of
2 said overcoat to said permanently colored decoratively enhanced surface the
3 application of a temperature greater than 250 degrees Fahrenheit without overheating
4 to cause warpage.

Please add the following new claims:

a6/1
39. The method of Claim 1 wherein said molded polyethylene article is a
2 preformed molded polyethylene article.

1 40. The method of Claim 39 wherein said incorporating step is
2 accomplished by applying said decorative enhancement composition to said preformed
3 molded polyethylene article.

1 41. The method of Claim 40 wherein said heating step is accomplished
2 by heating said decorative enhancement composition and said preformed molded
3 polyethylene article to a temperature and for a time sufficient to fuse said decorative
4 enhancement composition to said preformed molded polyethylene article.

1 42. The method of Claim 1 wherein said liquid carrier comprises 20 to 90
2 weight percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

1 43. The method of Claim 1 wherein said first mixture of said colorant, said
2 binder, and said particulate thermoplastic powder collectively comprise 10 to 80 weight
3 percent of said decorative enhancement composition.

1 44. The method of Claim 43 wherein said colorant comprises 9 to 50
2 weight percent of said first mixture and said binder and said particulate thermoplastic
3 powder collectively comprises 50 to 91 weight percent of said first mixture.

1 45. The method of Claim 44 wherein said binder comprises 30 to 70
2 weight percent of said second mixture and is selected from the group consisting of
3 hydrocarbon resins, petroleum, synthetic waxes, emulsifiable waxes, rosins, rosin-
4 esters, terpene based resins, and chlorinated polyolefin resins.

1 46. The method of Claim 44 wherein said particulate thermoplastic
2 powder comprises 70 to 30 weight percent of said second mixture and is selected from
3 the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and ethylene-vinyl acetate co-
polymers wherein said powder has a density from 0.88 to 0.97 and a particle size no
greater than 140 microns diameter